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These pictures are brought to your attention by Public Lands/Water Access Assoc.

PLAAI is dedicated to defending the public rights to access our public lands and water.

We have been inundated with requests to intercede and remove these restrictions to bridge access, but the cooperation with local government bodies has not been productive

The pictures enclosed in this folder are an example of what is happening in Montana with stream access at our public bridges. While the Attorney General's opinion on stream access is quite clear, it appears that the intent is being distorted with severe encroachment by landowners, whose purpose is not to contain cattle, but to restrict citizens from exercising their rights to access rivers and streams. The case for containing cattle appears to be a bit weak in as much as the bovine cannot read "No Trespassing" signs and orange paint to a color blind animal would appear to have little value.

The problem is a not few isolated incidents, but a the problem grows as landowners, in many counties, find that they can barricade county and public bridges with impunity. There does not appear to be any enforcement agency willing too, or feel they have the authority, to remove these obstacles to river and stream access.

The effects of these restrictions on access is not only recreational, but economic. . After talking to fly shops, guides, and resorts, the is clear relationship between access and the large tourist industry. They have implored us to do something. It is quite clear we do need a state wide law which consistently applies all counties. No organization is capable of handling these issues one at a time The problem will not go away, but will increase., as lands and ranches are changing owners.